



State of New Hampshire  
**WATER WELL BOARD**



Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*  
Stephen R. Smith, *Pump Installer*  
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*  
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*  
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*  
Steve Guercia, *Certified Operator, Public Member*

**NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES**

August 9, 2012

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board (“Board”) was held on August 9, 2012, at 9:00 AM, in the Department of Environmental Services Building in rooms 112 and 113, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Present were: Roger Skillings, Chairman  
Rene Pelletier, Secretary

Board Members: Stephen Smith, David Hunt, Steve Guercia, Frederick Chormann and Steven Garside

NH DES Staff: Richard Schofield and Michelle Robbins

Chairman Skillings brought the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted to accept the Minutes of the June 7, 2012 meeting.

**License Applicants**

**Jeffrey A Dubuc**

The Board considered an application from Jeffrey A Dubuc for a pump installer license. Mr. Hunt motioned to accept Mr. Dubuc’s application and Mr. Chormann seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

**Shawn Flynn**

The Board considered an application from Shawn Flynn for a water well contractor license. Mr. Schofield had invited Mr. Flynn to attend the meeting to discuss his application and at the time of review Mr. Flynn was not present. The Membership decided to table the review of Mr. Flynn’s application until he arrived.

**Request for Waiver**

**John Hemeon**

The Board considered a request from John Hemeon to renew his water well contractor license as an Honorary or Lifetime license and be granted a waiver from the \$100 annual dug well license renewal fee. Mr. Hemeon has had a dug well license for 30 years, is retired, living on a fixed income of social security and disability pension, and stated the \$100 annual license fee could be

used for other needs. He did not plan to construct another well but would like to retain the ability to construct a well if the opportunity arises.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Guercia, the Board voted to grant Mr. Hemeon a waiver of the license fee for the current year to ameliorate undue hardship based on Mr. Hemeon's 30 years of exemplary work. The waiver was granted with the requirements that Mr. Hemeon applies and requests to have his exemption reviewed each year, Mr. Hemeon is only authorized to dig up to two dug wells per license cycle, and Mr. Hemeon must continue to follow all state rules and regulations, including the filing of well completion reports for any wells constructed.

### **Renewals**

Mr. Schofield discussed the number of renewals received during the year and number of non-renewals.

### **Water Well News**

The Board considered a few of the topics written in the July 2012 Water Well Newsletter. The Board discussed how owners should be aware they need to file an application with DES and obtain approval before deepening or hydro-fracturing a community water supply well. The Board also discussed various methods of educating the public and it was suggested that a copy of the newsletter be included in the drinking water program mailings and with GSDI's mailings.

Next the Membership discussed well siting for domestic wells and how they have encountered issues with small building lots which have well radii overlapping with septic systems. It was further mentioned that DES staff would like to obtain Board approval to use the Pythagorean theorem to establish minimum casing depths for wells constructed less than 75 feet from septic systems. Additional education and outreach methods were discussed and how continued education for well drillers may be desirable with two CEU's annually as is the current requirement for pump installers. The Membership further discussed the possibility of establishing some mandatory state rules-based education courses for well drillers and pump installers for specific renewal cycles.

### **Request for Removal of Complaints**

#### **Capital Well Company**

The Board considered Capital Well Company's request to have its complaints removed from the registry. A review of the Board's records indicated the Board had received a complaint against Capital Well Company from Christine Ackerman in 2011. Mr. Pelletier motioned to deny the request based on the fact that three years have not passed since a complaint was filed against Capital Well Company. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The Board voted to deny the request.

#### **OneStop**

Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that two modifications had been made to the water well contractor and pump installer search application on the DES OneStop webpage. The first change was the addition of a license status option to query active or inactive water well contractors or pump installers. Currently the default was all contractors and unless "active" was selected the

output page contained mostly inactive contractors. The Board instructed staff to change the default to "active" status. The Board then discussed the appropriateness of having complaint registry records publicly viewable on the OneStop in the contractor look up query. Upon motion by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Guercia, the Board voted by majority to continue having complaint registry details made available to the public through OneStop. Mr. Hunt was opposed.

### **Other New Business**

#### **North Conway Water Precinct**

The Board reviewed a request from the North Conway Water Precinct (the Precinct) to be granted a waiver for decommissioning well #2, which had been destroyed by Hurricane Irene. The Precinct had decommissioned well #2 on February 29, 2012 without obtaining a water well contractor license as required by We 604.02(b). The precinct submitted an Abandoned Well Registration Report on July 2, 2012. The Board had received correspondence from the Precinct that it was unaware of the licensing requirement for decommissioning wells and had performed the work in accordance with proper decommissioning procedures.

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, and seconded by Mr. Garside, the Board voted to grant the request for an exemption of We 604.02(b), which requires a licensed water well contractor to decommission a well, based on the well's proximity to the river.

#### **Geothermal Well Design**

The Board continued discussion from the previous meeting on the potential issues posed by open loop geothermal wells and whether or not the Board should consider design criteria in rules. One of the concerns was temperature change caused by under sizing the well(s). Temperature changes can cause water quality issues and wells must be properly sized based on accurate load calculations for the structure to prevent temperature fluctuations greater than design specifications. The other concern was the absence of well design performance standards, which may result in a lack of consumer protection that could ultimately hurt the domestic geothermal market as a whole. Mr. Schofield mentioned that he believed the Board had the authority to adopt rules for geothermal well construction, with statutory amendments made in 2009. The Board was undecided on whether to pursue adoption of rules for geothermal well design at this time.

#### **Electronic Reporting**

Mr. Schofield reported to the Board that he and Rick Chormann had reviewed the latest version of the electronic reporting forms with Daniel Burleigh, and forms were almost ready to send out for testing. A number of the Board members volunteered to test the forms.

#### **License Applicants**

##### **Shawn Flynn**

Mr. Pelletier made a motion to deny Mr. Flynn's application based on its incomplete nature and Mr. Flynn had not attended the meeting to answer questions. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The application was denied.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rene Pelletier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rene Pelletier  
Water Well Board Secretary